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V CORPS WELCOMES NEW COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

By Spc. Rebecca Burt
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HEIDELBERG, Germany — V Corps welcomed its newest corps command sergeant major in a ceremony at Campbell Barracks here September 13.



SPC REBECCA BURT
V Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez (right) and new corps Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bush salute during a ceremony welcoming Bush at Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg, Germany September 13.

Representatives from units throughout the corps were on hand to welcome Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Bush as the corps new senior enlisted soldier and to bid farewell to Command Sgt. Maj.

Bruce L. Likens, who has been the corps' acting command sergeant major since February. Likens is returning to his position as command sergeant major for the corps' 69th Air Defense Artillery

Brigade.

Bush comes to the corps headquarters from the corps' 1st Armored Division, where he served as command sergeant major since June 2001. During his tour with the division, Bush deployed to Southwest Asia for more than a year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

V Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez lauded and welcomed Bush's experience as a deployed NCO.

"Today we are here to welcome a superb Soldier, who epitomizes the warrior ethos to the Victory Corps leadership team," said Sanchez. "He has deployed as a platoon sergeant, a first sergeant, battalion command sergeant major, brigade command sergeant major and as a division command sergeant major. At every senior NCO level he has deployed and been in harm's way, and that is a tremendous amount of experience that accrues to this corps, given the (operational) tempo that we perceive for the future."

Sanchez took a moment to describe his vision of the future of V Corps under Bush's leadership, listing the training and preparation of corps Soldiers for future missions as his number-one concern.

"We must focus on making every Soldier a warrior. Every Soldier in this corps must be trained before they deploy into battle," said Sanchez. "Every single Soldier in the corps must be able to fight, attack and defeat an enemy that is trying to kill us in the counter-insurgency and high-intensity environments that we are likely to encounter (on today's battlefields)."

As he charged Bush with that mission of preparing corps Soldiers as warfighters, Sanchez, who led 1st Armored Division prior to taking command of V Corps, said his own experience working side-by-side with him convinced him that Bush is the right choice to be the corps' senior enlisted leader.

"He deployed with me when we took 'Old Ironsides' (the 1st Armored Division) to Iraq, and stayed there for more than a year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom," he said. "There is no one more experienced than (Command) Sgt. Maj. Michael Bush to do this critical job."

In his own brief remarks, Bush thanked Sanchez for the general's confidence in his abilities and said he looks forward to the challenges ahead.

"I'm looking forward to working for the Soldiers of this corps, making sure that you and your family members are prepared to go to war," he said.

Bush originally entered the service in 1971 at Fort Ord, Calif. Following that tour, he left the military for a year, then re-entered the service in June 1975. He has since served in leadership positions ranging from long-range reconnaissance patrol team leader to command sergeant major. His assignments have included the U.S. Army Drill Team, 1st Battalion, 3rd Infantry (The Old Guard); fire direction center chief and platoon sergeant in the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry at Fort Benning, Ga.; platoon sergeant of the 4.2 mortar platoon, 3rd Battalion, 68th Armor, Mannheim, Germany; platoon sergeant, senior intelligence sergeant and first sergeant in the 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C.; operations sergeant major for the 2nd Maneuver Training Command, Jackson, Miss.; command sergeant major of the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry in Baumholder, Germany; command sergeant major of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division; command sergeant major of the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry; post command sergeant major, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, La., and command sergeant major of the 1st Armored Division.

He has attended numerous Army schools and training programs, including the U.S.Army Sergeants Major Academy (Class 36), the First Sergeants Course and the Jumpmaster Course.

Bush's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit; the Bronze Star Medal; the Meritorious Service Medal; the Army Commendation Medal; the Army Achievement Medal; the Good Conduct Medal; the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; the NCO Professional Development Ribbon; the Army Service Ribbon; the United Nations Medal; the NATO Medal; the Multinational Force and Observers Medal; the Armed Forces Service Medal; the Joint Meritorious Unit Award; the Meritorious Unit Commendation; the Army Superior Unit Award; the Master Parachutist's Badge; the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Expert Infantryman's Badge. Bush also wears airborne wings from Egypt, Germany, Jordan, Israel, England and Sudan.

